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## THE SALINE COUNTY JOURNAL.

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## THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

Knocking by the stream, I saw  
Kate, the farmer's daughter,  
Drinking in her rosy palm  
Dipping up the water.

She had thrown her hat aside,  
Bare were arm and shoulder;  
Each unconscious charm displayed,  
Made my love her soldier.

So I slowly, tenderly,  
Went and knelt beside her,  
Drank with her from out the stream,  
Blessing Kitty Ryder.

And I said, "The poet tells us  
Life is like a river;  
Shall we not its waters sweet  
Always drink together?"

Many years have passed by,  
Like the flowing stream to-day,  
But I drink the stream to-day  
With Kate, the farmer's daughter.

Two Cakes.

Through a dense fog, there might with  
difficulty have been seen a quiet, small  
neat-looking house in an obscure street  
in London. Crapes were streaming from  
the window, evidence that death had been  
a recent visitor to that house. On the  
door was a sign bearing the words, "Em-  
broidery done here." In the room fac-  
ing the street, sat the mistress and sole  
occupant, an old domestic excepted, of  
the house. The plain black dress, instead  
of concealing the beauty of the form it  
covered, added to its grace and beauty,  
and cast a shadow over a face of mar-  
velous beauty. The little hands looked like  
alabaster against the dark back of the  
sombre dress, as they lay listlessly in the  
lap of the orphan, Elise Gordier. Two  
months ago she had laid to rest her moth-  
er, one month ago her father, and now,  
alone and comparatively friendless, she  
was preparing to face the world and its  
bitter disappointments and few pleasures.  
Her mother had left her the little house,  
she occupied, and her father, who had  
been a physician, left her heirs to the  
small sum of one thousand pounds. Had  
Monsieur Cordier not been a strictly con-  
scientious and honorable man, double,  
nay, treble the sum might have fallen to  
his daughter at his death; but truth and  
honesty had guided him through life,  
and work and care must in consequence  
be the companions of his child. Elise  
had always led an industrious life, and it  
never occurred to her to sit quietly down,  
spend her one thousand pounds, and then  
cry for more. She determined to work,  
and to her little income, and to keep the  
home where she had passed such a happy  
childhood with her parents and her brother,  
who, at the age seventeen, had gone  
to America, in care of personal friends,  
and with fair promises of a position that  
would insure wealth and honor to him-  
self and family. During the first year  
of his absence he was prone in his cor-  
respondence, the second year he wrote  
but seldom, and the third year he wrote  
not at all, and never was he again heard from  
or, though all means had been resorted to,  
his friends never replied to letters sent  
to him, and nothing was left but to think  
him dead. He was deeply mourned by  
his family, and it was the loss of his son  
and wife that hastened the death of M.  
Cordier.

Elise shrank from facing the struggles  
and hardships of a governess, and, be-  
sides, did not feel herself competent to  
assume the charge of children. To teach  
piano or singing, she would have to be  
absent from home in all sorts of weather,  
ruin her health and gain little by it.  
Therefore, as she was not in absolute  
want, and having no family pride to sus-  
tain, or noble relatives to offend, she de-  
termined to do embroidery, at which she  
had always been remarkably clever; it  
was a pleasure to her, and would pay her  
sufficiently to cover her weekly expenses  
with very little infringement on her in-  
come, which she intended in time should  
set her up in a nice little shop, devoted  
exclusively to the many thousand little  
odds and ends so necessary to complete  
a lady's toilet.

It was the first day her sign had been  
hung and she was patiently awaiting her  
first customer. She sat for a time listen-  
ing to the passing footsteps and wishing  
for a customer, but as none came, she  
grew weary of watching, and seating her-  
self at her piano commenced playing  
the wedding march. So absorbed was  
she in her music, of which she was pas-  
sionately fond, that she did not hear the  
bell ring, nor yet the door of her parlor  
open, and when Madame, her faithful  
servant, announced in triumphant tones,  
"a customer, mademoiselle," Elise start-  
ed from the piano in painful confusion,  
only to meet the admiring, earnest gaze of  
a gentleman, tall, handsome, and with  
the dignity of some thirty-five years.

"Mademoiselle does embroidery, I be-  
lieve?"

"Yes, but for la—"

"For customers, of course?"

"Yes, sir."

"Say, monsieur, for I, like yourself, am  
French."

"What can I do for monsieur?" de-  
manded Elise, assuming a business tone,  
and casting a look upon her first custom-  
er, that forbade further useless conver-  
sation.

"I have two dozen handkerchiefs—my  
name is Victor de Lorme. I wish a cor-  
net and full name placed in the centre of  
the handkerchiefs."

"To be done by when?"

"At mademoiselle's earliest conveni-  
ence."

"My earliest convenience will be in  
one week—my price—"

"I did not ask that."

"My price will be—"

"Paid when the handkerchiefs are  
done."

"As you wish."

"I shall call to-morrow."

"It is not necessary."

"To bring more for you to do."

"Thank you."

A graceful boy, Monsieur Victor  
de Lorme was.

Elise moved to her work, and when  
prepared to commence the handkerchiefs,  
which would, she was sent shortly.  
In half an hour there was another ring

at the bell, and Monsieur de Lorme was  
again ushered in to the room.

"I brought the handkerchiefs myself,  
as I had forgotten to tell you the colors."

"How stupid—"

"Yes, it was."

"I mean of me."

"You are new in business, I see."

"Yes, sir."

"I thought so."

"What are the colors to be?"

"White, as pure as your hands," Mon-  
sieur de Lorme was on the point of ob-  
serving, but restraining his admiration, he  
said "as possible."

"All shall be done as monsieur desires,  
and as that is all, I must decline further  
conversation, for it is waste of time to me,  
as it is to all who work."

Monsieur de Lorme did not wait to be  
told in a plainer manner he was not want-  
ed, but left at once.

Elise commenced at once on the hand-  
kerchiefs, but every now and then her  
work would drop from her hands, and  
instead of thinking of what she was do-  
ing, she was foolish enough to think of  
the person for whom she was doing it.  
It was with many a sigh she looked at  
the pretty handkerchiefs, wondering how  
much they cost, and thinking she had  
never seen anything half so fine. Mon-  
sieur de Lorme came the following day,  
and the day after that again, and invari-  
ably some excuse that would bring him  
on the morrow. A week passed, the hand-  
kerchiefs were done, and all the other  
work brought to her by her first and so far  
only customer; but he had insisted on calling  
for them himself, and with a fast beating  
heart Elise sat expecting him. He came  
at the specified hour, this time in his car-  
riage, which bore on its polished door  
the coronet and the monogram de L.

"I see you await me?"

"Your work is done."

"And you want your pay—n'est pas,  
mademoiselle?"

"Before I give it you, you must sit  
down and listen to me, answer the ques-  
tions I put to you, and when I have fin-  
ished, you will tell me candidly, if you  
will take the pay I offer you."

Without an attempt at resistance Elise  
did as she was bid, and seating herself  
beside her Monsieur de Lorme asked in  
an authoritative tone:

"How many customers have you?"

"You are my only one."

"You have been but a week in this  
business?"

"Yes, so far so good. At the time of your  
father's funeral—forgive the allusion—I  
was in the church; I saw you, inquired  
who you were and what your family had  
been before you; I found all to my satis-  
faction, and then did I give way to the  
love that had been burning in my heart  
for you when first my eyes rested on your  
sweet face. I came here only to love  
you more deeply. You worked for me  
with these dear little hands—the pay I  
wish to give you is myself. Elise, will  
you be my wife—but it must be my loving  
wife?"

The hand of Elise trembled violently in  
that of her lover as he grasped it; her lips  
refused to perform their office, but her  
eyes sought those of Monsieur de Lorme,  
and reading in them nothing but truth  
and love, her eyelids dropped, and also  
her pretty head, which rested on the  
shoulder of Victor as he enquired it with  
his arms.

"I know the question you would ask,  
dearest; you wonder how I came here to  
seek a wife. It is easily understood. Pa-  
risian society is composed chiefly of girls  
who never think of marrying until they  
have broken two or three hearts, caused  
several duels, and been in some way  
concerned in intrigues of all sorts. I  
came of a proud family; my wife must  
be as spotless in thought, words or deeds  
as a babe; she must have no disgraceful  
connections; her ancestry, if humble,  
must be spotless; her heart must be free  
and her love must be all mine. You are  
such a woman; you stand alone in the  
world; your relatives have gone to their  
last resting-place respected and honored.  
In everything you are what I have sought  
and reserved my love for. Now, Elise,  
you know all."

"It is a strange all."

"Is it for your happiness?"

"Too happy for me to believe."

"We shall be married in a week, and I  
shall take my wife to Paris to live. I will  
show society its brightest ornament—the  
purest most beautiful wife in the world."

"Have you no relatives?"

"Oh, yes—sister, brothers—but they  
have laughed out my ideas, and we sel-  
dom meet. They but wait for an oppor-  
tunity to triumph over me—assuming me  
I shall marry some shrew with no rep-  
utation—less sense, and ditto principle."

"It seems all to me as a dream, and yet  
it is true, quite true."

"Now I shall leave you for a week, and  
be prepared. I have ordered all sorts of  
milliners and other people to prepare ev-  
erything for you—do not let them turn  
your pretty head."

"You are so good and thoughtful—"

"Victor, that is what you tried to say."

"Yes, Victor, that is it."

"Now I must be off—one week, dar-  
ling, and you shall be known, admired  
and respected as Mme. de Lorme, the  
wife of that much to be envied, happy  
fellow, Victor de Lorme."

"You will make me vain."

"Then one kiss and good-bye."

The kiss was given, the good-bye said,  
and Elise was left alone, to wonder at  
the strange turn her life had taken.

But strange as it was, it was neverthe-  
less true, and in one week, she was, in-  
deed, Mme. de Lorme. Her little home  
was disposed of—that is, it was put in care  
of old Manette, who refused to leave it.  
She had bid farewell to London, and was  
established in her home, the happiest  
side of the river. She was admired, court-  
ed and envied, but no where did she find  
as much pleasure as in her home—the  
happiness of which was completed a year  
later by the presence of a son, who was  
named after his father, and who was  
born on the day of the wedding.

were guilty of over their child. They  
devoted all their evening to it, and when  
it first began to walk and talk, it went  
everywhere with them.

The day it was two years old it was to  
be honored by driving with papa and  
mamma.

It had been overwhelmed with presents,  
and Elise had just completed the toilet  
of her little son, and had placed him on  
the table for inspection, when her maid  
entered, and handed her a letter with a  
foreign post mark.

"Who can it be from, I wonder?"  
mentally thought Elise, and forgetting  
her son, she broke the seal and read:

You are my sister, Elise de Lorme. You  
have ever been a good sister to me when I  
was at home. I have in a moment of insanity, forced  
the name of my employer. If you do not  
send me three thousand dollars, disgrace will  
fall on you and your family. FRANCIS CORDIER.

"My husband will hate me—where  
now is my unsullied name? This is the  
end of my husband—my son—"

Before Elise could turn to her child he grew  
impatient, and attempted to jump off the  
table—he slipped, and falling on his back,  
he lay as if dead. At that moment Mon-  
sieur de Lorme entered the room.

"Elise, your boy, quick" was all he  
uttered.

"He is killed, Victor."

"No, no, darling, not hurt."

He tenderly was the little one picked  
up and carried to his bed—the doctor  
was summoned, and after a careful ex-  
amination pronounced the spine injured,  
and that nothing but constant care could  
save him from deformity.

"Then my boy is saved, doctor. I  
will know the care my Elise will bestow  
on him."

"Not for an instant will I leave him,  
husband."